

GENERAL REUNION INFORMATION

Last updated 16 MAY 2025

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE VHPA WEBSITE FOR THE MOST CURRENT DETAILS.

**VHPA REUNION & HOTEL REGISTRATION IS
ANTICIPATED TO OPEN LATE MAY 2025**

Who Can Attend the Reunion - As a general rule anyone who is “dues current” in the VHPA can register, order tickets, etc. simply by paying the Reunion Registration Fee. All who served in the Vietnam War as helicopter pilots must not only be a member of the VHPA but also be current with their annual membership dues as of the first day of the Reunion to register. Anyone who was not a pilot is also welcome to attend as long as they are a “dues current” subscriber to the VHPA Aviator magazine. Exceptions are vendors, specifically invited performers/speakers, Gold Star Family guests, and Non-Registered Banquet guests; these people do not have to be a subscriber to attend. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket for any of our events must pay the Reunion Registration Fee.

As a general rule, since VHPA Membership and Subscriber dues expire on the last day of the month, someone who is dues current when they register could be non-dues current on the 1st day of the Reunion (20 AUGUST 2025). Because of this, the VHPA Reunion Registration software is “forward looking” regarding dues status.

Reunion Hotel Info: Marriott St. Louis Grand, 800 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63101

The VHPA Group Rate is **\$132 plus tax per night** over the dates of **20 AUGUST 2025 thru 23 AUGUST 2025 (based on hotel availability)**. The VHPA room rate has limited availability pre & post reunion dates.

The cutoff date for the hotel rate is 27 JULY 2025.

Information for booking hotel rooms will be emailed to you with your reunion registration receipt & itinerary.

Transportation from/to the Airport: Several options for transportation from/to the St. Louis airport are: Uber, Lyft, taxi and the St. Louis MetroLink Light Rail.

To use the Light Rail, follow the MetroLink signs throughout the Airport to the Light Rail platform. VHPA members will be using the RED LINE from/to the airport/hotel. Tickets can be purchased at the boarding platform via ticket vending machines. Exit the Light Rail at the Convention Center Station for the Marriott St. Louis Grand, the hotel is about a block away. The estimated Light Rail time from/to the Airport/Hotel is 30 minutes.

For more information visit: <https://www.metrostlouis.org/metrolink/>

Parking: VHPA has negotiated a 40% discount off the 2025 hotel self parking rates.

Internet Access: Wireless internet is complimentary throughout the hotel.

Dress Code - The dress code is casual for this Reunion, with the following reminders and suggestions:

- It is a good idea to wear your Reunion lanyard so other attendees can recognize that you are with VHPA.
- At the Closing Banquet, many men wear a suit and tie with the ladies wearing a nice dress. You will even see Dress Blues.

Wheelchair/Scooter Rentals – Wheelchair and scooter rentals can be booked with Mobility City St. Louis. They will deliver and pickup to the hotel for a fee. Reservations need to be made 6-8 weeks in advance.

For more information: Visit <https://stlouismo.mobilitycity.com> or call 636-434-2860.

Vendor Area: If you are interested or know of anyone interested in becoming a Vendor for R2025 please go to www.vhpa.org and download the Vendor/ Book Seller/ Exhibitor Contract, Waiver, and Vendor/Book Seller/Exhibitor Policy Rules & Regulations. Complete the forms and mail or email to VHPA HQ. If you know of anyone that you think would be an asset to the Reunion Vendor Area be sure to let them know or contact VHPA HQ to give us the info and we will be happy to give them a call. **Be sure to send your form in early.**

Oral History Interviews: Mike Law will be available to record and collect Oral Histories. As we have done in past years, we will be signing attendees up for slots in advance. Please contact Mike Law via email at mikelaw1943@gmail.com or visit www.vhpa.org for details about how to sign up prior to arriving in St. Louis so you can fit this history preserving event into your Reunion schedule.

Volunteers: The South Missouri Chapter is the Host Chapter this year and as such, will organize the volunteers. Volunteer opportunities are organized around stations and then shifts with the number of volunteers needed for that shift. Sounds like a Duty Roster! We've found that 3-hour shifts will not take up much of your time or make you too tired. Additionally, we can guarantee everyone is trained on their duties. Needless to say, WE GREATLY APPRECIATE having volunteers! Not only do we avoid the cost of hiring local convention bureau temps, but we get a chance to interact with each other while performing the tasks EXACTLY as a VHPA'er would have it done. As is our tradition, the Host Chapter, The South Missouri Chapter, gets "first shot" at the Duty Roster. If you are interested in volunteering, contact HQ at sherry@vhpa.org or 800-505-8472. BTW, husband and wife teams are welcome to volunteer.

Reunion T-Shirts – The T-shirts for this year will be blue and come in sizes small thru 3XL. You are welcome to order as many as you wish with your Reunion Registration by July 25 or until sold out.

Please know it is possible to order Reunion T-shirts even if you do not plan to attend the Reunion. Simply contact VHPA HQ and tell them you only want a "Reunion T-shirt order only". **The shirts will be mailed to you after the Reunion.**

S-XL - \$19 2L-3XL - \$21

Attendee (Member/Subscriber or Guest) Registration - The early registration fee is **\$40** through 19 August and **\$50** beginning 20 August.

Please remember that each person, regardless of age, who wants/needs an event ticket and/or a Reunion name badge and lanyard must pay the registration fee.

17 & under Guest Registration - The registration fee for someone 17 & under is **\$20**.

Please remember that each person, regardless of age, who wants/needs an event ticket and/or a Reunion name badge and lanyard must pay the registration fee.

Canceling a Reunion Registration – The VHPA Member or Subscriber who made the Reunion Registration is known as the Primary Registrant (PR). A PR may cancel all or portions of his/her registration **by notifying HQ by close of business (3:00pm Central Time) Friday, 25 July 2025**. Please contact HQ by email at HQ@vhpa.org or phone at 800-505-8472. **It is important to note that reunion registration cancellations and hotel reservation cancellations are completely separate business processes. The PR is responsible for both processes. PRs cannot assume that when they cancel their hotel reservation that the hotel will notify HQ to cancel the reunion registration or vice versa.**

Guarantee Refund Insurance (GRI) Program - It is important to note that the following reunion registration items are non-refundable even with purchase of GRI: the GRI itself, reunion registration fees, dues payments, or voluntary contributions, cancellation fees, plus any event tickets designated as non-refundable. A PR may only cancel all or portions of his/her registration with GRI **by notifying HQ by close of business (3:00pm Central time) Friday, 08 August 2025**. Please contact HQ by email at HQ@vhpa.org or phone at 800-505-8472. The GRI program covers only specific VHPA events and fees, and does not cover cancellation costs that might be associated with hotel rooms, airfares, rental cars, and other non-VHPA generated expenses.

Reunion Refunds - The Executive Council establishes the official cancellation date (OCD) for each reunion. **The OCD for this year's reunion is Friday, 25 July 2025 without GRI and Friday, 08 August 2025 with GRI.** Only cancellations received by HQ by close of business (3:00pm Central Time) on the OCD are considered for refunds. **It is important to note that the following reunion registration items are non-refundable even with purchase of GRI: the GRI itself, reunion registration fees, dues payments, donations or voluntary contributions, cancellation fees, plus any event tickets designated as non-refundable.** As a general rule, HQ starts processing refunds about two weeks after the reunion ends. No refunds are processed until after the reunion is over. For PRs receiving a refund, there is a two-step process. First, the PR receives a letter and/or a statement from HQ outlining the details of the refund including the amount. Normally this correspondence is sent from HQ by US mail but it can be via email. Second, the PR receives a check via US mail from the VHPA's bank (Chase Bank). No refunds are issued back to credit cards. The goal is to complete the entire refund process no later than one calendar month after the reunion ends. Any clerical errors in the details of the refund should be brought to the attention of HQ.

Mini-Reunions: 21 August through 23 August - Keeping in mind that one of the primary reasons for our Reunion is to reconnect with past compatriots from your RVN unit and flight school. The best way to meet up with unit members is to schedule your own Mini-Reunion. If your unit does not have a Mini-Reunion, why not take the initiative to start one up, or you could combine with other sister units you are familiar with if you wish. In addition to specific units and flight classes, we've had Mini-Reunions for such subjects as tandem rotor, Dust-off, Operation Lam Son 719, anyone who was stationed at Soc Trang, VHPA chapters, anyone interested in radio controlled aircraft models. Mini-Reunions are typically scheduled in 4-hour blocks and are available for booking on most days during the Reunion. You can also request a second four-hour block. However, this second block will be granted on a space available basis with priority for the particular space given to units requesting only one block. Due to decreased usage and increased expenses, the Reunion no longer provides AV equipment for Mini-Reunions. Once your Mini-Reunion is scheduled the details will appear on the webpage. You still should make an effort to get the word out to your buds. Use your directory to contact members (encourage them to re-up with the VHPA if they are not dues current), write a short article for the VHPA Aviator, and schedule early so we can list your unit in articles such as this.

NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED IN THESE ROOMS!

It is easy to schedule a Mini-Reunion. Complete the Mini-Reunion Request form available at VHPA.ORG and return by email to Sherry Rodgers at sherry@vhpa.org or mail the completed form to HQ at the address listed on the form.

KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Sponsorship - \$30 - This item is to support costs of events for Gold Star Families to attend events. Thank you for your generosity.

PLEASE NOTE: This item does not provide you with a ticket to the Gold Star Breakfast, it helps to provide events for Gold Star Family Members.

O'Club: 20 August - 4:00pm-9:00pm / 21 August-22 August - 11:00am-9:00pm / 23 August - 12:30pm-9:00pm

In the tradition of a Vietnam Unit's Officer's Club, you can get a beer and shoot the breeze with your buddies. The O' Club will again be part of 'ground zero' – meaning the Vendor Area, Ballrooms, Registration and Pre-registration, and the O' Club are all within hand grenade range.

St. Louis Shuttle: 21 August - 22 August - 9:45am - 5:30pm and 23 August - 12:00pm - 5:00pm- \$25 (one time fee)

The St. Louis Shuttle offers a convenient and scenic ride through the heart of the city, with stops at some of the most iconic attractions. VHPA Members can journey to the Soldier's Memorial Military Museum, where you can explore the rich history of America's armed forces. Visit the Blues Museum, celebrating St. Louis' deep musical heritage and its connection to blues music. The shuttle route will include the iconic Gateway Arch, a symbol of American expansion and an unforgettable sight. Finally, the shuttle stop at Ballpark Village, where you can soak in the excitement of a sports district filled with restaurants, shops, and entertainment. Perfect for VHPA guests, this shuttle offers an easy and fun way to explore St. Louis' cultural and historical landmarks.

Capacity: This event is limited to 300 participants.

NOTES: This ticket does not include any admissions for any attractions. It is for the shuttle only and can be used as many times as you like during the reunion.

This is the only transportation to the Gateway Arch, which is a much see attraction in St. Louis. Visit www.gatewayarch.com for more information regarding this attraction.

THURSDAY, 21 AUGUST 2025

Golf Outing at: 21 August – 6:45am – 3:30pm - \$145

This year we will play at Landings at Spirit Golf Club about 40 minutes west of the Downtown St. Louis area in Chesterfield, MO. The Landings at Spirit Golf Club offers a premier golfing experience in the heart of Missouri's scenic countryside. Nestled alongside the Missouri River and surrounded by lush, rolling terrain, this championship 18-hole course provides a challenging yet enjoyable round for golfers of all skill levels. Please see www.landingsatspirit.com for details about the course.

Your golf ticket includes bus transportation, green fees, carts, scorecards, complimentary range balls, one Power Pack, and lunch. Golf clubs can be rented for \$30 and very limited sets are available. Please contact the course directly to reserve.

Capacity: This event is limited to 50 participants.

Video Presentation #1 – Lam Son 719 – Clyde Romero: 21 August – 9:00am – 10:15am – NC

Lam Son 719 Feb-Apr 1971 -Was a joint operation between the US Armed forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. The US Army's Largest helicopter operation in the Vietnam War. Over 600 helicopters were damaged and over 100 destroyed in 45 days of sustained combat operations in Laos.

Writer's Group: 21 August – 9:00am – 12:00pm (Actual meeting duration may vary depending on activities that day) – NC

The VHPA Writers Group will meet again, no pun intended. We have two gatherings scheduled for the 2025 Reunion. Hopefully we are all looking forward to our time together. Whether or not you have written, think about writing or just want to get a feel for what your buddies are up to, you are invited to attend.

There are several hot-button issues on everyone's minds these days for sure. With the advent of AI, ChatGPT, CoPilot and seemingly limitless other forms of Artificial Intelligence, we need to think even more seriously about getting our recollections (imagined or otherwise) on paper and into the archive. It could mean something to someone someday. We will have lively discussions no matter how you slice it.

Visit the Writers Group table in the Vendor Area and "meet and greet" folks we may not have seen in years or ever before. One of VHPA's guest speakers, Tracy Smith Mathis, (author/speaker), ambassador with the Military Writers Society, plans to join us in our conversation. The Military Writers Society is an organization we should all be familiar with if not already.

If perhaps anyone is interested in socializing, I am sure we can work that out as well. There is a lot of free time available here and there. Dinners, informal breakfast conversations, etc are all in play.

Contact me: PilotAuthor@gmail.com or tomintxk@gmail.com

St. Louis City Tour #1: 21 August – 9:30am – 12:30pm - \$55

Discover the heart of St. Louis on this immersive city tour, where history, culture, and stunning architecture come together. This journey will have highlights like the iconic Gateway Arch: the tallest monument in the U.S., Forest Park: a 1,300-acre urban oasis that hosted the 1904 World's Fair and houses top attractions like the St. Louis Art Museum, the Missouri History Museum, and the St. Louis Zoo. Sports fans can take a peek at Busch Stadium from the tour bus: home of the

beloved St. Louis Cardinals, Soulard District: known for its blues music and bustling farmers' market, and VHPA guests will get a drive by of the world-famous Anheuser-Busch Brewery. This tour will include a stop at Cathedral Basilica with its amazing mosaics. Whether you're a history buff, foodie, or adventure seeker, this tour offers an unforgettable glimpse into the soul of St. Louis!

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTE: This tour will include stops along the way and guests can stay on the bus if they do not want to disembark.

Anheuser Busch Day Tour & Tasting #1: 21 August – 9:30am – 1:00pm - \$45

The Anheuser-Busch Day Tour offers an exciting and immersive experience into the world of brewing excellence. This guided tour takes you through the historic brewery in St. Louis, where you'll learn about the rich history of Anheuser-Busch, the brewing process, and the company's iconic beers. Explore the brewing facilities, discover the secrets behind the craftsmanship of their signature brews, and even meet the famous Clydesdale horses that have become a symbol of the brand. Along the way, enjoy a sampling of Anheuser-Busch's finest beers and learn from knowledgeable guides about the legacy of one of the world's largest breweries. This tour does include one beer at the conclusion of the tour. Guests will have time to grab lunch and grab some drinks on their own at the Biergarten and browse/shop at the Beer Gift Shop.

Capacity: This event is limited to 30 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event.

This experience is 1.25 hours long and consists of 7 BLOCKS of downhill walking. This tour is ADA accessible and includes inside and outside walking. All guests are required to wear flat, closed-toe shoes and no bags larger than 8x10x8 or backpacks allowed on tour.

St. Louis History Museum #1: 21 August – 9:45am – 12:45pm - \$30

Step back in time with a visit to the St. Louis History Museum, where the rich and vibrant past of the city comes to life. This engaging tour takes our guests through a comprehensive collection of exhibits showcasing St. Louis' pivotal role in American history. Explore the stories of the city's founding, its significant cultural contributions, and its evolution from a frontier town to a bustling urban hub. Highlights include artifacts from the 1904 World's Fair, interactive displays, and exhibits on St. Louis' diverse communities, innovations, and historical milestones. The St. Louis History Museum offers a captivating journey through the city's fascinating heritage for our VHPA Guests. This is a self-paced tour.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

St. Louis Shuttle: 21 August – 9:45am – 5:30pm

The St. Louis Shuttle offers a convenient and scenic ride through the heart of the city, with stops at some of the most iconic attractions. VHPA Members can journey to the Soldier's Memorial Military Museum, where you can explore the rich history of America's armed forces. Visit the Blues Museum, celebrating St. Louis' deep musical heritage and its connection to blues music. The shuttle route will include the iconic Gateway Arch, a symbol of American expansion and an unforgettable sight. Finally, the shuttle stop at Ballpark Village, where you can soak in the excitement of a sports district filled with restaurants, shops, and entertainment. Perfect for VHPA guests, this shuttle offers an easy and fun way to explore St. Louis' cultural and historical landmarks.

Capacity: This event is limited to 300 participants.

NOTES: This ticket does not include any admissions for any attractions. It is for the shuttle only and can be used as many times as you like during the reunion.

This is the only transportation to the Gateway Arch, which is a much see attraction in St. Louis. Visit www.gatewayarch.com for more information regarding this attraction.

Video Presentation #2 – Library of Vietnam Project, Inc. – Chuck Theusch: 21 August – 10:30am – 11:45am – NC

The idea of building a Library by the 61st AHC was completed on December 9, 2011. The Bong Son School Library was handed over to the teachers in a celebration of hope between past enemies, now friends. Now 15 years later, the Library continues bringing the hopes and dreams of the children of Bong Son to life, with computers, books and more. The Library Project's friends continue to visit with annual scholarships, English Language support, and most importantly, outstretched hands of friendship. This is the legacy of Vietnam Veterans, joined by the Helicopter pilots and crewmen. Their story inspires, we hope, another Library at Phu Cat, Hue or Quang Tri, Vietnam as a treasured Legacy, known to all the locals for having "Always Come Back." This is our story and an invitation to join our legacy.

Anheuser Busch Day Tour & Tasting #2: 21 August – 11:00am – 2:30pm - \$45

See Anheuser Busch Day Tour and Tasting #1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 30 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event.

This experience is 1.25 hours long and consists of 7 BLOCKS of downhill walking. This tour is ADA accessible and includes inside and outside walking. All guests are required to wear flat, closed-toe shoes and no bags larger than 8x10x8 or backpacks allowed on tour.

Video Presentation #3 – Pennies from Vietnam – Tracy Mathis Smith: 21 August – 12:00pm – 1:15pm – NC

After a career in commercial real estate development, Tracy Smith became a freelance columnist, author, and public speaker. She completed broadcasting school and worked as an Associate Producer with Naka Productions on the Telly Award-winning documentary "Moving America's Lighthouse" with Walter Cronkite. Decades later, Mr. Cronkite plays a pivotal role in Tracy's debut book, *Pennies from Vietnam. A Sister at Home, a Brother at War*, published by McFarland Books in 2024. Several Helicopter pilots were located in her extensive search that served with her brother Larry, some that were shot down with Larry and others that rescued him! Through storytelling, Tracy has seen much healing, both in herself and in her readers. She shares family stories and personal experiences with grief and PTSD, to promote healthy discussion about generational trauma.

Video Presentation #4 – Wes Sheffield: 21 August – 1:30pm – 2:45pm – NC

"The Legacy of Fort Wolters, U.S. Army Primary Helicopter School, Mineral Wells, Texas, 1956-1973"

Wes J. Sheffield is the author of the book, "Helicopter Training at Fort Wolters, Mineral Wells and the Vietnam War" published in July 2024, Arcadia Publishing and an aviation/aerospace professional and historian. He has taught history at Dallas Baptist University and is an active member of the West Texas Historical Association, serving as the organization's social media editor. His interest in Fort Wolters began while employed with Bell Helicopter, where he met and later interviewed former Vietnam War helicopter pilots while writing a narrative history of Fort Wolters, US Army Helicopter School.

The presentation will cover the beginning of the U.S. Army Primary Flight School in 1956, until its closure and deactivation of Fort Wolters in 1973.

Originally a World War II infantry training center, followed by a brief stint as a US Air Force base, Camp Wolters was redesignated a US Army installation in July 1956, and its primary mission was to train helicopter pilots.

Mineral Wells offered an ideal climate and terrain for flight training with predominately clear skies, rolling open ranch land, high bluffs, and the Brazos River valley. An integral part of Mineral Wells' economy, the flight school expanded in the 1960s due to escalation of the Vietnam War. During the war, with the exception of the US Navy, all helicopter pilots receiving primary flight training passed through Fort Wolters. During its 17 years of operation, over 40,000 pilots were trained, which included international students from 33 countries. The last Fort Wolters pilots graduated in 1973, and it was formally closed in 1975 and was converted into an industrial center.

St. Louis City Tour #2: 21 August – 1:30pm – 4:30pm - \$55

See St. Louis City Tour #1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTE: This tour will include stops along the way and guests can stay on the bus if they do not want to disembark.

Anheuser Busch Day Tour & Tasting #3: 21 August – 1:45pm – 5:15pm - \$45

See Anheuser Busch Day Tour and Tasting #1 for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 30 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event.

This experience is 1.25 hours long and consists of 7 BLOCKS of downhill walking. This tour is ADA accessible and includes inside and outside walking. All guests are required to wear flat, closed-toe shoes and no bags larger than 8x10x8 or backpacks allowed on tour.

St. Louis History Museum #2: 21 August – 2:00pm – 5:00pm - \$30

See St. Louis History Museum Tour #1 on 21 August for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Video Presentation #5 – Remembering CPT Scott Alwin – Pamela Fullerton: 21 August – 3:00pm – 4:15pm – NC

Honor in the Air is a documentary for all who love Aviation, the Military, and the Heroes who have flown in service to our nation. The film focuses on the life of Captain Scott R. Alwin, a helicopter pilot who served five tours during the Vietnam War with the 68th AHC (1967-1972). Scott, a Wisconsin native and one of 16 siblings (all preacher's kids), was awarded more Combat Air Medals than any aviator in military history from any branch of service. He was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star, multiple Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry. The story also reflects the true valor and determination of those with whom Scott fought and serves as an example to be shared with our children and grand-children and as a touchstone for all of us who want to honor the unsung heroes in our own lives. The story is told thru interviews with fellow veterans, siblings, archival film, and personal letters.

The in-person introduction by HIA Co-producer, Pamela Fullerton and contributor, Penny Alwin Kleinhans, reveals the behind-the-scenes story of Scott's life, his accomplishments, and the making of the documentary. It's an interesting glimpse into the creation of a flyer's passion. There will be a Q & A after the film.

Video Presentation #6 – Truths & Myths About the Vietnam War – Georgia Chapter – 4:30pm – 6:00pm: 21 August – NC

The 46-minute Vietnam documentary film entitled "Truths and Myths about the Vietnam War", (with an introduction for actor Sam Elliott), is about what we did. It focuses on information and lessons learned that those who served want Americans to know.

It examines the treatment of returning veterans, media influence and humanitarian acts by U.S. troops - and challenges the predominant view that the war was unwinnable.

It presents a different narrative, something you don't hear or read about in school.

It tries to tell that there was a purpose to our service - that it was for an important cause.

Finally, this documentary argues that the Vietnam War could have been won at several points using sensible strategies, saving thousands of lives.

Background: This documentary film was created and produced by the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association Foundation. There is no cost to viewers or their organizations.

Welcome Reception: 21 August – 7:00pm – 9:00pm - NC

Traditionally this reception was the first official event for everyone to get together at the Reunion. This year's reception is not only a social get together, but will bring the laughs with a small comedy act to start the reception off. Cash bars will be positioned to make certain no one has to stand in a long line.

FRIDAY, 22 AUGUST 2025

KIA/MIA Gold Star Breakfast: 22 August - 7:30am – 9:00am - \$30

Gold Star Family Breakfast is a traditional VHPA reunion event organized by Julie Kink. This is an opportunity to recognize our Gold Star families. All are welcome to attend. These families are extremely appreciative of the fact that their loved ones did not die alone and that we care about them and remember them like a brother.

If you would like to invite KIA/MIA Gold Star family members who will not be registering for the Reunion, please call VHPA HQ to provide their names and contact information so we can have Name Badges prepared for them.

Have you been emailing back and forth with Bob's brother for years, but just never got a chance to shake his hand? This is the opportunity to do that. Invite them to attend the reunion and bring them to the Gold Star Family Breakfast. I'm happy to answer questions about the breakfast, as details get confirmed, or about how to connect with a buddy's family. Little sister, Julie Kink, sister of WO David Kink C Troop 1/9th CAV KIA 8-3-1969. I am also a member of VHFCN Family Contacts Committee. Visit www.VirtualWall.org/contacts or email me at Kink100@att.net.

Whole fresh fruit, cold cereals, scrambled eggs, chicken apple sausage, breakfast potatoes, breakfast pastries, orange juice, coffee and iced water.

Writer's Group: 22 August – 9:00am – 12:00pm (Actual meeting duration may vary depending on activities that day) – NC

See Writer's Group on 21 August for details.

St. Louis City Tour #3: 22 August – 9:30am – 12:30pm - \$55

See St. Louis City Tour #1 on 21 August for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTE: This tour will include stops along the way and guests can stay on the bus if they do not want to disembark.

Anheuser Busch Day Tour & Tasting #4: 22 August – 9:30am – 1:00pm - \$45

See Anheuser Busch Day Tour and Tasting #1 on 21 August for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 30 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event.

This experience is 1.25 hours long and consists of 7 BLOCKS of downhill walking. This tour is ADA accessible and includes inside and outside walking. All guests are required to wear flat, closed-toe shoes and no bags larger than 8x10x8 or backpacks allowed on tour.

St. Louis History Museum #3: 22 August – 9:45am – 12:45pm - \$30

See St. Louis History Museum Tour #1 on 21 August for details.

St. Louis Shuttle: 22 August – 9:45am – 5:30pm

See St. Louis Shuttle on 21 August for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 300 participants.

NOTES: This ticket does not include any admissions for any attractions. It is for the shuttle only and can be used as many times as you like during the reunion.

This is the only transportation to the Gateway Arch, which is a much see attraction in St. Louis. Visit www.gatewayarch.com for more information regarding this attraction.

Anheuser Busch Day Tour & Tasting #5: 22 August – 11:00am – 2:30pm - \$45

See Anheuser Busch Day Tour and Tasting #1 on 21 August for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 30 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event.

This experience is 1.25 hours long and consists of 7 BLOCKS of downhill walking. This tour is ADA accessible and includes inside and outside walking. All guests are required to wear flat, closed-toe shoes and no bags larger than 8x10x8 or backpacks allowed on tour.

St. Louis City Tour #4: 22 August – 1:30pm – 4:30pm - \$55

See St. Louis City Tour #1 on 21 August for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTE: This tour will include stops along the way and guests can stay on the bus if they do not want to disembark.

Anheuser Busch Day Tour & Tasting #6: 22 August – 1:45pm – 5:15pm - \$45

See Anheuser Busch Day Tour and Tasting #1 on 21 August for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 30 participants.

NOTES: Purchase of lunch IS NOT included in price of event.

This experience is 1.25 hours long and consists of 7 BLOCKS of downhill walking. This tour is ADA accessible and includes inside and outside walking. All guests are required to wear flat, closed-toe shoes and no bags larger than 8x10x8 or backpacks allowed on tour.

Veteran's Quilt Presentation & Quilter's Show & Tell: 22 August – 2:00pm – 4:00pm – NC

This special event is **free and open to all reunion guests**. Our quilting program, a tradition started on or before 2010, is divided into two sessions. The **first, and our most important**, is the presentation of personalized American flag themed quilts to randomly selected VHPA aviators. After our presentation program, quilters and other interested attendees are invited to remain for the "show and tell" session where quilters display and discuss their on-going and finished masterpieces. Also, during this session we will have a sneak preview of the quilting blocks being donated for inclusion in next year's quilts.

St. Louis History Museum #4: 22 August – 2:00pm – 5:00pm - \$30

See St. Louis History Museum Tour #1 on 21 August for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

Dinner Cruise: 22 August – 6:15pm – 9:30pm - \$90

Step aboard a luxurious riverboat for an unforgettable St. Louis Dinner Cruise, where breathtaking views, delicious cuisine, and live entertainment come together for a magical evening. As you set sail along the mighty Mississippi River, take in stunning panoramic views of the Gateway Arch and the twinkling city skyline. Enjoy a carefully crafted multi-course dinner featuring a selection of gourmet dishes, with options to satisfy every palate. Dinner will include a house salad, dual protein of grilled chicken breast and filet steak, twice-baked potato, tempura brussel sprouts, and chocolate ganache-filled Bundt cake. Guest can sip on a refreshing cocktail or a glass of fine wine as you relax with a CASH bar for our guests.

Capacity: This event is limited to 300 participants.

NOTE: Boat with 300 capacities is a new fleet and scheduled to be in service prior to Reunion. Guests signed up for this event will be notified if anything changes or if boat is not in service.

SATURDAY, 23 AUGUST 2025

Pre-Memorial Service Breakfast: 23 August – 7:30am – 8:30am - \$30

This is the final breakfast offered at this Reunion. The Memorial Service, scheduled to begin at 9am is primarily a time to honor the several hundred VHPA members and potential members who passed away since the 2024 Reunion in Reno, NV.

Whole fresh fruit, cold cereals, scrambled eggs, bacon, breakfast potatoes, breakfast pastries, orange juice, coffee & iced water.

Memorial Service: 23 August – 8:45am – 9:30am - NC

The Memorial Service has been part of the “Reunion’s Fabric” for at least nineteen years. It has evolved into the perfect setting/opportunity to reflect and remember our fallen brothers and friends. Since the KIA/MIA Gold Star Family Breakfast is dedicated to our KIA/MIA brothers, this Memorial Service is dedicated to those who passed away after their service in Southeast Asia with SPECIAL EMPHASIS on those who have passed SINCE THE LAST VHPA REUNION. The VHPA often uses the term DAT (Died After Tour) to refer to those who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War era, survived the War, and then passed away.

It is important to note that no financial donations or contributions are requested or accepted during the Memorial Service. Questions concerning this event should be directed to VHPA Executive Council Member John Powell or by contacting VHPA HQ.

Annual Business Meeting: 23 August – 10:00am – 12:30pm - NC

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) is when we conduct the official business of the association. On Saturday morning you will hear committee chairmen give reports on their activities over the past year and you will have the opportunity to vote on administrative issues plus elect our next two Executive Council members. This is a good time to learn about the workings of the VHPA behind the scenes and to influence the future direction of our association.

Only VHPA Members in good standing (meaning the former pilot is dues current and HQ has a valid mailing address for him in the database) may attend. This is a ticketed event and you **MUST** present your ticket at the door. VHPA Members in good standing who are not attending the Reunion can also attend the ABM but must obtain a ticket from the HQ Registration Desk.

Spouse/Guest Murder Mystery Event: 23 August – 10:00am – 12:30pm - \$55

This will be a fun filled event for our ladies of VHPA to step into a world of mystery, deception, and suspense with an exciting Murder Mystery experience with Jest Murder Mystery! As the morning unfolds, you'll become part of a thrilling story where secrets lurk, motives emerge, and a shocking crime must be solved. Enjoy an event of immersive entertainment as you interact with intriguing characters, gather clues, and piece together the puzzle to uncover the culprit. Whether you're playing detective, a suspect, or simply soaking in the drama, each twist and turn will keep you on the edge of your seat. Take a break during the event to enjoy appetizer stations before diving back into the mystery.

Capacity: This event is limited to 75 participants.

NOTE: Lunch IS NOT included but appetizers will be included in the program.

St. Louis Shuttle: 23 August – 12:00pm – 5:00pm

See St. Louis Shuttle on 21 Aug. for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 300 participants.

NOTES: This ticket does not include any admissions for any attractions. It is for the shuttle only and can be used as many times as you like during the reunion.

This is the only transportation to the Gateway Arch, which is a much see attraction in St. Louis. Visit www.gatewayarch.com for more information regarding this attraction.

St. Louis Sightseeing Cruise: 23 August – 12:45pm – 3:00pm - \$50

Experience St. Louis from a whole new perspective on a scenic sightseeing cruise along the mighty Mississippi River! Step aboard a classic riverboat and set sail past some of the city's most iconic landmarks, including the stunning Gateway Arch, the historic Eads Bridge, and the bustling riverfront district. As you glide along the water, listen to live narration from expert guides who share fascinating stories about St. Louis' rich history, from its days as a frontier trading post to its role in westward expansion. Marvel at the breathtaking views of the skyline, spot local wildlife along the riverbanks, and capture unforgettable photos of the city's most famous sights.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTE: There is food and drinks on board for purchase and IS NOT INCLUDED in ticket price.

St. Louis City Tour #5: 23 August – 1:00pm – 4:00pm - \$55

See St. Louis City Tour #1 on 21 August for details.

Capacity: This event is limited to 100 participants.

NOTE: This tour will include stops along the way and guests can stay on the bus if they do not want to disembark.

Closing Banquet: Registered Adults – 23 August – 6:00pm – 10:00pm - \$75

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (beef or chicken) for someone who has also paid the adult reunion registration fee.

The highlight for most reunion attendees is our closing banquet. This is the only “dress up” occasion of the reunion. It is a celebration of our time together opening with a tribute to our missing men and closing with the change of command from our current president to the new one after the meal.

For those who just want to visit after the closing remarks, please know you can stay at your table until 11 pm. Cash bars remain open until they are no longer needed.

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30pm and PROGRAM BEGINS AT 6:00PM

Closing Banquet: Registered Child <12 – 23 August – 6:00pm – 10:00pm - \$35

This ticket is for a "kid's meal" for the closing banquet. A word of warning is appropriate here. This meal is designed for children under the age of 12 years old. Trust us when we say that this meal will NOT MAKE a teenager happy at all!

Closing Banquet: Non-Registered Guest – 23 August – 6:00pm – 10:00pm - \$85

This ticket is for an adult banquet meal (beef or chicken) for someone who has **NOT PAID** the adult reunion registration fee. Please review the Non-Registered Banquet Guest (NRBG) details in the Reunion Information at www.vhpa.org.

A non-registered guest enjoys all the features/details described in the registered adult narrative above.

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30pm, PROGRAM BEGINS AT 6:00PM